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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 KINSHASA 001249

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [MOPS](#) [KWMN](#) [CG](#) [RW](#)

SUBJECT: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, BLASTS
RWANDA AT MEETING WITH P-3 +2 AND MONUC

¶1. (SBU) Summary: Acting Foreign Minister Alain Lubamba convened a snap meeting of P-3 + 2 ambassadors and MONUC on October 25.

Lubamba, a member of the micro-party "UDEMO" (Union of Democratic

Mobutistes) delivered a rambling statement condemning Tutsi politician Azarias Ruberwa, criticized renegade Tutsi general and insurgency leader Laurent Nkunda, and asked for increased foreign assistance to deal with gender-based violence in the east of the DRC. At the end of the meeting he distributed a highly-inflammatory statement (paras 8 and 9 below) criticizing Rwanda. The statement did not receive significant press coverage in the DRC. Lubamba was clearly acting without instructions, as he has done in the past. End summary.

¶2. (U) Late October 24 Acting Foreign Minister Alain Lubamba called Charge to say he was convening a meeting of the P-3 + 2 ambassadors and MONUC for the following day at noon. (Note: Lubamba was acting in the absence of Foreign Minister Antipas Mbusa, who had departed for the U.S. with President Joseph Kabila in connection with Kabila's October 26 visit with President Bush. End note.) Charge asked why he was being convened; Lubamba replied he would explain at the meeting, which was attended by the ambassadors of France, the United Kingdom and Belgium, plus the charges of the United States and South Africa. MONUC was represented by a political counselor.

¶3. (SBU) Lubamba introduced the chief of staff of the minister of humanitarian affairs, representing his boss who, Lubamba said, was in the hospital, as well as a medical expert on gender based violence. After the introductions, he began the meeting with a rambling monologue referring to recent statements in the U.S. by Azarias Ruberwa Manywa, a prominent Tutsi politician who served as vice president in the transitional government. Ruberwa, Lubamba stated, had shown he was disloyal to his country by criticizing President Kabila publicly while in the U.S. Lubamba then criticized Nkunda, repeating the much-used argument that Congolese Tutsis were not persecuted; in fact, Lubamba emphasized, some of the DRC's most prominent and powerful people are Tutsis. He then spoke on the subject of gender based violence and its effect on victims and their children, asking for increased foreign assistance to deal with the problem. The medical expert added to Lubamba's statement with comments on physical and psychological aspects of the issue.

¶4. (SBU) Attendees were invited to make comments. The French and Belgian ambassadors thanked the acting minister for his invitation and reassured him their governments were outraged over the atrocities in the east and were working with the GDRC to end the conflict. U.S. Charge stated the U.S. was actively engaged in efforts to end the violence and that President Kabila's meeting with President Bush the following day was testimony to the importance the U.S. attaches to ending the conflict and human rights abuses. He then said that in democracies like the United States public opinion was an important component in the formulation of foreign policy. Efforts to obtain greater funding for victims of gender based violence in the east might be compromised if, as some human rights organizations were saying, many gender based crimes were committed

by the DRC's own military forces. He referred to Amnesty International's latest report, released the previous day, which maintains that most gender based crimes in the DRC are carried out by the army. The U.K. ambassador picked up on this, also emphasizing the importance of taking measures to reduce perpetration of these crimes by the FARDC.

¶5. (SBU) The meeting ended at 1:50 pm. The acting minister then called in the press, approximately 30 persons in all, which had been waiting outside the room, and asked attendees to remain with him as he spoke to the media. He then handed out a statement (paras 8 and 9). All diplomats excused themselves politely and left the room stealthily before Lubamba's press conference began. The event and the statement were not given significant coverage in Kinshasa's media.

¶6. (SBU) Note: Alain Lubamba is a member of UDEMO ("Union des Democratres Mobutistes"), a micro-party with one senator (the senate has 108 members) and 9 deputies (that chamber has 500). The party is headed by Minister of State for Agriculture, Francois-Joseph Nzanga Mobutu, a son of the former dictator. Younger brother Albert-Philippe Mobutu Giala Kassa is a deputy. Although the party is small, some observers affirm its presence in the Kabila government is a powerful symbol of reconciliation between supporters of the late dictator and those who fought to oust him under Laurent Kabila, father of the current president. End note.

¶7. (SBU) Comment: Lubamba similarly convened the diplomatic corps on September 15 during the absence of President Kabila and Foreign Minister Mbusa to attend the UN General Assembly. At that meeting he condemned the UN Security Council press statement of September 12 which called on "all parties to comply with international law." Lubamba claimed that the UN statement gave Nkunda equal status with the GDRC. He also handed out a statement he drafted criticizing the UN, which was covered in the local media. It was later confirmed that Lubamba's action on September 15 was not authorized by the presidency or the foreign minister. UN Special Representative and MONUC chief William Swing (pls protect) told charge October 24 he

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would not attend Lubamba's meeting that day because of the Acting Minister's inaccurate statement of September 15. Charge has discussed Lubamba's unauthorized grand-standing with other diplomats, who have agreed to complain to Foreign Minister Mbusa. End comment.

¶8. (U) Following is original French text of Acting Foreign Minister's statement.

Begin French text:

REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO
MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES ET DE LA COOPERATION
INTERNATIONALE
COMMUNICATION DU MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES ET DE LA
COOPERATION INTERNATIONALE AUX CHEFS DE MISSIONS DIPLOMATIQUES DU
P3+2 ACCREDITES EN RDC SUR LA SITUATION SECURITAIRE A L'EST DE LA
REPUBLIQUE
DEPUIS L'ORGANISATION DES ELECTIONS DEMOCRATIQUES, LIBRES ET
TRANSPARENTES EN REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO, LE GOUVERNEMENT

S'EST FIXE COMME OBJECTIF ULTIME, LA REFONDATION DE L'ETAT COMME CHEVAL DE BATAILLE DE LA RECONSTRUCTION NATIONALE APRES DE LONGUES ANNEES DE TURBULENCES POLITIQUES.

ALORS QUE TOUS LES EFFORTS DEVAIENT ETRE CENTRES ET MOBILISES VERS CE NOBLE OBJECTIF, L'INSECURITE A L'EST DE LA RDC, TELLE UNE EPINE DANS LE PIED, DECONCENTRE ET IMPOSE PAR CONSEQUENT AU GOUVERNEMENT CONGOLAIS L'OBLIGATION DE RESTAURER L'AUTORITE DE L'ETAT. CETTE RESTAURATION PASSE PAR LA SECURISATION DES POPULATIONS CIVILES DUREMENT MEURTRIES.

C'EST DANS CETTE OPTIQUE QUE LE CHEF DE L'ETAT A SEJOURNE DERNIEREMENT AU NORD KIVU POUR SE RENDRE COMPTE DE L'EVOLUTION DE LA SITUATION. PRENANT SES RESPONSABILITES EN MAINS EN SA QUALITE DE GARANT DE L'UNITE NATIONALE ET DE L'INTEGRITE TERRITORIALE, II A REAFFIRME SA DETERMINATION A PACIFIER L'EST DE LA REPUBLIQUE PAR TOUS LES MOYENS, EN PROTEGEANT CONSEQUEMMENT TOUTES LES COMMUNAUTES SANS DISCRIMINATION AUCUNE.

II IMPORTE DE RAPPELER QUE LE GENERAL DECHU NKUNDA S'EST REBELLE PENDANT QU'IL EXERCAIT LES FONCTIONS DE COMMANDANT DE REGION MILITAIRE ET AU MOMENT OU SA COMMUNAUTE ETAIT REPRESENTEE AU SOMMET DE L'ETAT EN ASSUMANT LES FONCTIONS DE VICE PRESIDENT EN CHARGE DE LA COMMISSION POLITIQUE, DEFENSE ET SECURITE ET CELA N'A MEME PAS FAIT OMBRAGE AU CANDIDAT ORIGINAIRES DE SA COMMUNAUTE AUX ECHEANCES PRESIDENTIELLES QUI A OBTENU LA 6EME PLACE SUR UNE LISTE DE 33 CANDIDATS.

CECI EST UN DEMENTI PROBANT S'IL EN ETAIT BESOIN DE L'ARGUMENTAIRE DE LA MINORITE ETHNIQUE QUE JUSTIFIERAIT LA MUTINERIE DE MONSIEUR NKUNDA ET LES EXACTIONS AUXQUELLES IL SE LIVRE.

PAR AILLEURS, IL IMPORTE DE RELEVER QUE LE SCORE LE PLUS ELOQUENT DU MEMBRE DE LA COMMUNAUTE TUTSI AUX ELECTIONS PRESIDENTIELLES A ETE INSCRIT DANS LA PROVINCE ORIENTALE ET CELLE DU KATANGA PENDANT QUE DANS LE FIEF DE MINEMBWE, LE RESULTAT A ETE LE PLUS FAIBLE.

PAR CONTRE, EN EVOQUANT LE CALVAIRE DE LA MINORITE TUTSI, IL SERAIT UTILE DE RELEVER QUE MONSIEUR NKUNDA EST ACTUELLEMENT INSTALLE DANS LE TERRITOIRE DE RUTSHURU A FORTE CONCENTRATION DES POPULATIONS HUTU CONGOLAIS ET QU'IL Y A LIEU D'ETRE PREOCCUPE PAR DES EXACTIONS AUXQUELLES CES POPULATIONS SONT ASSUJETTES AU JOUR LE JOUR PAR LES INSURGES. IL EST A CRAINDRE QU'UN GENOCIDE S'Y DERoule EN VASE CBS AU REGARD DES FAUSSES COMMUNES QU'ON N'Y A DECOUVERTES IL Y A PEU. PAR AILLEURS, PLUSIEURS MEMBRES DE LA COMMUNAUTE TUTSI EXERCENT DES FONCTIONS IMPORTANTES DANS DIVERSES INSTITUTIONS DU PAYS. C'EST LE CAS NOTAMMENT DE ME MOISE NYARUGABO ELU SENATEUR A KINSHASA, ALORS QUE SA TRIBU NE DISPOSE D'AUCUN DEPUTE PROVINCIAL. LES CONGOLAIS ONT PREFERE VOTER UTILE.

DU RESTE, SUR PLUS DE 450 TRIBUS REPERTORIEES EN RDC, SEULES 147 SONT EFFECTIVEMENT REPRESENTEES A L'ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE. TOUT COMPTE FAIT, 203 TRIBUS Y SONT ABSENTES, DONC NON REPRESENTEES. IL CONVIENT DE RELEVER EGALEMENT QUE LE NOMBRE DES OFFICIERS GENERAUX ET

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12. (U) Late October 24 Acting Foreign Minister Alain Lubamba called Charge to say he was convening a meeting of the P-3 + 2 ambassadors and MONUC for the following day at noon. (Note: Lubamba was acting in the absence of Foreign Minister Antipas Mbusa, who had departed for the U.S. with President Joseph Kabila in connection with Kabila's October 26 visit with President Bush. End note.) Charge asked why he was being convened; Lubamba replied he would explain at the meeting, which was attended by the ambassadors of France, the United Kingdom and Belgium, plus the charges of the United States and South Africa. MONUC was represented by a political counselor.

SUPERIEURS DE LA COMMUNAUTE TUTSI DANS L'ARMEE NATIONALE, DEPASSE CELUI QUE POSSEDENT TOUTES LES TRIBUS REUNIES DU NORD ET SUD KIVU.

LE SOUTIEN APORTE AU GENERAL DECHU CACHE MAL, UNE STRATEGIE DEVANT CONTINUER A SERVIR DE FONDS DE COMMERCE AU POUVOIR RWANDAIS POUR

JUSTIFIER SES AGRESSIONS RECURRENTES CONTRE LA RDC.
EN EFFET, DEPUIS 1994 LE RWANDA EST INCAPABLE D'ASSEOIR UN ETAT
DEMOCRATIQUE. C'EST LA TRIBU TUTSI QUI DETIENT LES RENES DU POUVOIR
SANS PARTAGE AVEC LE FALLACIEUX ARGUMENT DE RECHERCHER LES
GENOCIDAIRES ALORS QUE TOUS LES HUTU NE DEVRAIENT NULLEMENT ETRE
MELES A LA FOLIE MEURTRIERE DE 1994 DU SEUL FAIT D'EXPRIMER LEURS
AMBITIONS POLITIQUES.
C'EST DE CETTE INCAPACITE D'INSTAURER UN ETAT DE DROIT QUE DECOULE
TOUT CET ARGUMENTAIRE DE PROTECTION DE LA MINORITE TUTSI. RAISON
POUR LAQUELLE, LA RDC DEMANDE A LA COMMUNAUTE INTERNATIONALE DE
PRENDRE TOUTES SES RESPONSABILITES AUX FINS D'EXERCER DES FORTES
PRESSIONS SUR LE POUVOIR MONOLITHIQUE DE KIGALI POUR QU'IL OUVRE LE
JEU DEMOCRATIQUE ET PERMETTE AINSI A TOUS LES RWANDAIS DE RETOURNER
CHEZ EUX, ET DE TROUVER PAR LE DIALOGUE LES SOLUTIONS AUX PROBLEMES
DE LA GESTION DU POUVOIR D'ETAT QUI S'Y POSE AVEC ACUITE.
S'Y PRENDRE AUTREMENT HYPOTHEQUERAIT POUR LONGTEMPS LA CHANCE DE
VOIR S'INSTALLER LA PAIX DURABLE DANS LA REGION. CAR, LA MAJORITE
HUTU MISE A L'ECART DE LA GESTION DU POUVOIR D'ETAT N'AURA D'AUTRE
CHOIX QUE LE RECOURS A LA FORCE, CE QUI CONSTITUERAIT UN SERIEUX
RECU.
FAIT A KINSHASA, LE 25 OCTOBRE 2007
End French text

19. (U) Following is unofficial Embassy translation into English of
original French text

Begin unofficial translation

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION TO THE HEADS OF P3+2 DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ACCREDITED TO
THE DRC, ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE
REPUBLIC

SINCE THE ORGANIZATION OF DEMOCRATIC, FREE AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS
IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET FOR
ITSELF AS ITS ULTIMATE GOAL THE RESTORATION OF THE STATE AS THE
ENGINE OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AFTER LONG YEARS OF POLITICAL
TURBULENCE.

WHILE ALL EFFORTS MUST BE FOCUSED ON, AND MOBILIZED AROUND, THIS
LOFTY GOAL, INSECURITY IN THE EAST OF THE DRC, LIKE A THORN IN THE
FOOT, INTERFERES AND THEREFORE REQUIRES THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT TO
RESTORE STATE AUTHORITY. THIS RESTORATION MUST INVOLVE ENSURING THE
SAFETY OF CIVILIAN POPULATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN SEVERELY HARMED.

WITH THIS IN MIND, THE PRESIDENT RECENTLY VISITED NORTH KIVU TO SEE
FOR HIMSELF HOW THE SITUATION IS EVOLVING. ASSUMING HIS
RESPONSIBILITIES AS GUARANTOR OF NATIONAL UNITY AND TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY, HE REAFFIRMED HIS DETERMINATION TO PACIFY THE EAST OF THE
REPUBLIC BY ALL NECESSARY MEANS, BY PROTECTING THEREFORE ALL
COMMUNITIES WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION WHATSOEVER.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECALL THAT DEPOSED GENERAL NKUNDA BEGAN HIS
REBELLION WHEN HE WORKED AS A REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER AND WHEN
HIS COMMUNITY WAS REPRESENTED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE
GOVERNMENT, WITH ONE OF THEIR OWN HAVING ASSUMED THE OFFICE OF VICE

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snap meeting of P-3 + 2 ambassadors and MONUC on October 25.
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Mobutistes) delivered a rambling statement condemning Tutsi
politician Azarias Ruberwa, criticized renegade Tutsi general and
insurgency leader Laurent Nkunda, and asked for increased foreign
assistance to deal with gender-based violence in the east of the
DRC. At the end of the meeting he distributed a highly-inflammatory
statement (paras 8 and 9 below) criticizing Rwanda. The statement
did not receive significant press coverage in the DRC. Lubamba was
clearly acting without instructions, as he has done in the past.
End summary.

12. (U) Late October 24 Acting Foreign Minister Alain Lubamba called
Charge to say he was convening a meeting of the P-3 + 2 ambassadors
and MONUC for the following day at noon. (Note: Lubamba was acting
in the absence of Foreign Minister Antipas Mbusa, who had departed

for the U.S. with President Joseph Kabila in connection with Kabila's October 26 visit with President Bush. End note.) Charge asked why he was being convened; Lubamba replied he would explain at the meeting, which was attended by the ambassadors of France, the United Kingdom and Belgium, plus the charges of the United States and South Africa. MONUC was represented by a political counselor.

PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF THE POLITICAL, DEFENSE AND SECURITY COMMISSION; THIS DID NOT EVEN WEAKEN THE CHANCES OF A CANDIDATE FROM HIS COMMUNITY IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, WHO FINISHED SIXTH IN A LIST OF 33 CANDIDATES.

THIS DISPROVES THE ARGUMENTS OF THE ETHNIC MINORITY THAT WOULD JUSTIFY MR. NKUNDA'S MUTINY AND THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE CARRIED OUT BY HIM.

IN ADDITION, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VOTES FOR THE TUTSI CANDIDATE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WAS IN THE ORIENTALE AND KATANGA PROVINCES, WHILE IN THE MINEMBWE STRONGHOLD, HE RECEIVED THE SMALLEST NUMBER OF VOTES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WHEN INVOKING THE HARDSHIPS OF THE TUTSI MINORITY, IT IS WORTH POINTING OUT THAT MR. NKUNDA IS CURRENTLY DEPLOYED IN THE RUTSHURU TERRITORY, WHERE THERE IS A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF CONGOLESE HUTUS, AND THAT THERE IS REASON FOR CONCERN BECAUSE OF THE ABUSES TO WHICH THESE POPULATIONS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED ON A DAILY BASIS BY THE INSURGENTS. IT IS FEARED THAT GENOCIDE IS BEING CARRIED OUT THERE, IN LIGHT OF RECENTLY DISCOVERED COMMON GRAVES.

FURTHERMORE, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE TUTSI COMMUNITY HOLD IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRY. THIS IS THE CASE WITH MOISE NYARUGABO, ELECTED TO THE SENATE FROM KINSHASA, ALTHOUGH HIS TRIBE HAS NO MEMBERS IN THE LOWER CHAMBER. THE CONGOLESE PREFERRED TO CAST A USEFUL VOTE.

MOREOVER, WITH MORE THAN 450 TRIBES IN THE DRC, ONLY 147 ARE REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ALL TOLD, 203 TRIBES ARE ABSENT, THUS UNREPRESENTED. IT SHOULD BE ALSO NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF GENERALS AND SENIOR OFFICERS FROM THE TUTSI COMMUNITY IN THE NATIONAL ARMY EXCEEDS THAT FROM ALL THE TRIBES OF NORTH AND SOUTH KIVU COMBINED.

THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE DEPOSED GENERAL POORLY HIDES A STRATEGY USED BY RWANDA'S POWER STRUCTURE TO JUSTIFY REPEATED AGGRESSIONS AGAINST THE DRC.

INDEED, SINCE 1994 RWANDA HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CREATE A DEMOCRATIC STATE. THE TUTSI TRIBE HOLDS THE REINS OF POWER WITHOUT SHARING THEM, USING THE FALLACIOUS ARGUMENT THAT IT IS PURSUING THOSE WHO COMMITTED GENOCIDE, BUT HUTUS SHOULD NOT ALL BE MIXED UP WITH THE MURDEROUS FOLLY OF 1994 SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY EXPRESS THEIR POLITICAL AMBITIONS.

IT IS THIS INABILITY TO ESTABLISH THE RULE OF LAW FROM WHICH FLOWS THIS ARGUMENT OF PROTECTING THE TUTSI MINORITY. THIS IS WHY THE DRC IS ASKING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ASSUME ITS FULL RESPONSIBILITY TO STRONGLY PRESSURE THE MONOLITHIC POWER STRUCTURE IN KIGALI SO IT WILL OPEN UP THE DEMOCRATIC GAME AND ALLOW ALL RWANDANS TO RETURN HOME, AND TO FIND, THROUGH DIALOGUE, SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF MANAGING POLITICAL POWER, A PROBLEM WHICH ACUTELY EXISTS THERE.

DOING OTHERWISE WOULD JEOPARDIZE FOR A LONG TIME A CHANCE TO ACHIEVE LASTING PEACE IN THE REGION. BECAUSE THE HUTU MAJORITY, WHICH HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM STATE POWER, WILL HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO USE FORCE, WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS REVERSE.

ISSUED IN KINSHASA, OCTOBER 25, 2007

End unofficial translation

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